

the county units of organized medicine in the United States of America. Much of whatever will come out of this effort of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care will originate and be tried out through county medical societies. It is hoped all county units will give the report early and careful consideration.

THE COMMENTS OF THE "JOURNAL A. M. A." ON THE FINAL REPORT

Reaction of the American Medical Association.

As the revised proofs of the December CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE were about to be sent to the printer, we received galley proofs of comments which will appear in the editorial and medical economics columns of the December 3 *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Because they shed additional light on the work of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, it seems advisable to reprint here several of the paragraphs. These follow:

"This week the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care completed its five-year study and made available a final report. An abstract and analysis of the report appears under Medical Economics in this issue of THE JOURNAL. The recommendations of the majority of the committee will not come as a surprise to the thousands of physicians who have followed closely the trend of the studies as indicated by the reports published from time to time since 1927. The director of the work, Harry H. Moore, Ph. D., published a book called 'American Medicine and the People's Health,' which revealed his personal bias for insurance schemes and, indeed, for governmental practice. So definite was the trend of the committee's studies in this direction that one must view the expenditure of almost a million dollars by the committee and its final report with mingled amusement and regret. A colored boy spent a dollar taking twenty rides on the merry-go-round. When he got off, his old mammy said: 'Boy, you spent yo' money but where you been?' . . .

"Briefly, the majority report recommends that medical practice be rendered largely by organized groups associated with hospitals, and it expresses the hope that these groups will maintain the personal relationship between patient and physician so essential to good medical care. The rendering of all medical care by groups or guilds or medical soviets has been one of the pet schemes of E. A. Filene, who probably was chiefly responsible for establishing the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care and in developing funds for its promotion. Such practice has, moreover, on various occasions had the endorsement of representatives of some of the eight foundations that contributed financial support. . . .

"These two reports represent, therefore, the difference between incitement to revolution and a desire for gradual evolution based on analysis and study. The majority report urges reorganization of medical practice, the development of centers, insurance; if necessary taxation to provide funds; expansion of public health services. The minority is willing to test any plan that may be offered if it conforms to the medical conception of what is known to be good medical practice. . . .

"THE JOURNAL, under the auspices of the Board of Trustees, representative of organized medicine in this country, urges physicians to familiarize themselves with the abstract of the final report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care which appears in this issue, if not with the complete report. It urges, after

careful consideration, support of the minority report signed by the representatives of the American Medical Association in the committee. The alinement is clear—on the one side the forces representing the great foundations, public health officialdom, social theory—even socialism and communism—inciting to revolution; on the other side, the organized medical profession of this country urging an orderly evolution guided by controlled experimentation which will observe the principles that have been found through the centuries to be necessary to the sound practice of medicine. On the one side are alined the forces that would practice one kind of medicine for the rich, another for the wage-earner and the indigent; on the other side are the physicians who know that, from the point of view of the physician who studies bodies and minds, all are human beings. The physicians of this country must not be misled by utopian fantasies of a form of medical practice which would equalize all physicians by placing them in groups under one administration. The public will find to its cost, as it has elsewhere, that such schemes do not answer that hidden desire in each human breast for human kindliness, human forbearance and human understanding. It is better for the American people that most of their illnesses be treated by their own doctors rather than by industries, corporations or clinics. The American Medical Association, through its Board of Trustees, supports the minority report. No doubt the House of Delegates at its session in Milwaukee next June, will urge every physician affiliated with the Association to do likewise."

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRIZE ESSAYS

Importance of Coöperation.—Several years ago the Council of the California Medical Association authorized two annual prizes, one for the best paper on a research study and the other for the best paper on a clinical subject. The prize to each successful entrant takes the form of a \$150 purse and a neatly engrossed and framed certificate. One of the reasons the California Medical Association Council offered these prizes was to encourage younger men in the profession to present papers at the annual sessions. Last year the rules were broadened so that any paper presented at an annual session could be entered in the prize competition, provided the identity of the author was not divulged to the Committee on Prizes. A standing notice concerning these prizes is printed on advertising page 2 of every issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It is stated therein that the Association Secretary will send detailed information to any member who wishes to know more concerning the conditions governing the prizes. All correspondence is held as confidential. Comment is here made concerning these annual prizes in order to emphasize the desirability of a large number of entrants, because then the Council will feel justified in sanctioning the expense involved. Last year twelve papers were submitted. It is hoped an even larger number will be sent to the committee this year. The 1933 annual session will convene at Del Monte on April 24. There is still time to act. You are invited to submit a paper. For reference to this year's prize papers, see June CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 383, and July CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 3.